Claims

1. A method for adjusting the vagal nerve stimulation (VNS) signal induced by a stimulus generator implanted in a patient in need of vagal nerve stimulation comprising the steps of

a) monitoring at least one parameter selected from respiratory parameters and physiological acid-base parameters which correlate to the VNS intensity, and

b) regulating the stimulation intensity in response to said at least one parameter.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one respiratory parameter is selected from a group consisting of end-tidal carbon dioxide ($EtCO_2$), respiratory rate (RR), respiratory frequency (RF), respiration amplitude (RA), and airflow.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said at least one physiological acid-base parameter is selected from a group consisting of CO_2 content and pH.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said at least one respiratory parameter is end-tidal carbon dioxide ($EtCO_2$).

5. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said at least one respiratory parameter is respiratory frequency (RF).

6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein monitoring is performed by a capnograph.

7. A method for adjusting the vagal nerve stimulation (VNS) signal induced by a stimulus generator implanted in a patient in need of vagal nerve stimulation comprising the steps of

a) monitoring the level of end-tidal carbon dioxide ($EtCO_2$) and respiration frequency which correlate to the VNS intensity, and

b) regulating the stimulation intensity in response to said respiratory parameter.

8. A method for controlling the effectiveness of vagal nerve stimulation (VNS) induced by a stimulus generator implanted in a patient in need of vagal nerve stimulation comprising the steps of

a) monitoring at least one parameter selected from respiratory parameters and physiological acid-base parameters which correlate to the VNS intensity, and

b) regulating the stimulation intensity in response to said at least one parameter.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said at least one respiratory parameter is selected from a group consisting of end-tidal carbon dioxide ($EtCO_2$), respiratory rate (RR), respiratory frequency (RF), respiration amplitude (RA), and airflow.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said at least one physiological acid-base parameter is selected from a group consisting of CO_2 content and pH.

11. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said at least one respiratory parameter is end-tidal carbon dioxide ($EtCO_2$),

12. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said at least one respiratory parameter is respiratory frequency (RF).

13. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein monitoring is performed by a capnograph.